

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NEAE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 ACDA-07 /064 W

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P R 251155Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY KABUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9087

INFO AMEMBSSY ISLAMABAD PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L KABUL 6337

E.O. 11/22: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, A, PK

SUBJ: PAK-AFGHAN RELATIONS

REF: A. ISLAMABAD 8750 B. KABUL 6119

1. AFGHAN MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS (MFA) HAS PROVIDED EMBASSY WHWH ENGLISH LANGUAGE TEXT OF JOINT COMMUNIQUE ISSUED AT END OF PRESIDENT DAOUD'S AUGUST 20-24 VISIT TO PAKISTAN. WE HAVE NOT YET HAD OPPORTUNITY TO DISCUSS VISIT WITH AFGHAN OFFICIALS. HOWEVER, JUDGING FROM COMMUNIQUE N AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD'S REPORTING, AND MEDIA TREATMENT, IT APPEARS THAT THE SPIRIT OF CAUTIOUS OPTIMISM THAT GREW DURING PM BHUTTO'S JUNE VISIT TO KABUL IS BEING CAREFULLY NURTURED BY GOPT OF AFGHANISTAN (GOA) AS WELL AS PAK GOVT.

2. A JARRING NOTE TO THE PREVAILING ATMOSPHERE OF HIGH HOPE AND EXPRESSIONS OF GOODWILL HAS BEEN THE PRESENCE OF AJMAL KHATTAK, EXILED FORMER SECRETARY GENERAL OF PAKISTAN'S NATIONAL AWAMI PARTY -- AND ANATHEMA TO BHUTTO GOVT -- AT A NUMBER OF RECENT OFFICIAL AFGHAN FUNCTIONS TO WHICH PAKISTANI DIPLOMATS HAVE BEEN INVITED. THE FIRST SUCH  
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INCIDENT TOOK PLACE DURING THE AFGHAN JESHYN (REPUBLIC DAY)

CELEBRATIONS IN JULY AND CAUSED PAK AMBASSADOR'S IMMEDIATE DEPARTURE FROM PRESIDENT DAOUD'S PAVILION (KABUL 5506). SIMILAR DEPARTURE OF PAK AMBASSADOR WAS OCCASIONED BY KHATTAK'S PRESENCE AT AIRPORT FAREWELL CEREMONY AUGUST 15 WHEN DAOUD DEPARTED FOR COLOMBO (REF B). AFGHAN MILITARY EXERCISE HELD NEAR GHAZNI AUGUST 22 WAS ALSO SCENE OF NEAR COLLISION BETWEEN KHATTAK AND PAK OFFICIALS. THE ATTACHE CORPS WAS INVITED TO OBSERVE EXERCISE WHICH WAS ATTENDED BY NAIM AND MEMBERS OF CABINET. TO EVERYONE'S SURPRISE, KHATTAK WAS ALSO PRESENT - IN FULL TRIBAL REGALIA. HIS PRESENCE LED TO RAPID DEPARTURE OF BOTH PAK MILITARY ATTACHES. SIMILARLY, KHATTAK WAS PRESENT WHEN CABINET MEMBERS, OTHER GOA OFFICIALS, AND DIPLOMATIC CORPS WELCOMED PRESIDENT DAOUD UPON HIS RETURN FROM PAKISTAN LATE AFTERNOON AUGUST 24. IN THIS CASE PAK EMBASSY HAD BEEN WARNED AND CARE WAS TAKEN THAT KHATTAK AND PAK EMBASSY REPRESENTATIVE WERE NOT BROUGHT TOGETHER. NONTHELESS KHATTAK'S PRESENCE WAS OBVIOUSLY SOURCE OF CHAGRIN TO PAKISTANIS.

3. EMBASSY HAS OPINED PREVIOUSLY THAT KHATTAK'S PRESENCE AT SUCH OCCASIONS MAY BE INTENDED TO DISARM DOMESTIC CRITICS OF PAK/AFGHAN RAPPROCHEMENT TATHER THAN TO POSE OBSTACLE TO THAT PROCESS. HOWEGER, SINCE PROGRESS TO DATE IS MAINLY ATMOSPHERIC RATHER THAN SUBSTANTIVE THERE MAY COME A POINT AT WHICH KHATTAK'S SPECTRE-AT-THE FEAST- ROLE MAY BE SEEN BY PAKISTANI OFFICIALS LESS AS A SOP TO PUSHTUNISTAN EXTREMISTS THAN AS A GRATUITOUS CONTRADICTION OF AFGHAN EXPERSIONS OF GOOD WILL AND INTENT.

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** FOREIGN RELATIONS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 25 AUG 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** greeneet  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1976KABUL06337  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D760324-0705  
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**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 76 ISLAMABAD 8750  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** greeneet  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 02 JUN 2004  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <02 JUN 2004 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <27 SEP 2004 by greeneet>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
04 MAY 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** PAK-AFGHAN RELATIONS  
**TAGS:** PFOR, AF, PK  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006